

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 7021
By Harmon

A RESOLUTION to recognize Flavius Allen Barker on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their careers; and

WHEREAS, Flavius Allen Barker is one such estimable person who has served with distinction for nearly fifty years as a highly regarded member of the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation; he was elected to the Sequatchie County Farm Bureau Board in 1957, and has served continuously since that time; and

WHEREAS, a native of Sequatchie County, where his parents and grandparents lived and farmed in the beautiful Sequatchie Valley, Flavius Barker was born on March 18, 1931, the older of two boys born to Charles Abner and Eunice Allen Barker; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Barker and his brother started a farming operation early in life, milking a few cows by hand in their early teens and selling milk to a cheese plant; their boyhood industry grew into a Grade A Dairy in 1955; and

WHEREAS, he has been a devout and active member of the Chapel Hill United Methodist Church near his farm for as long as he can remember; and

WHEREAS, after attending grade school in Dunlap and graduating in 1949 from Sequatchie County High School, Flavius Barker met the former Naomi Miller of Loudon County, who had come to Dunlap to teach school; he came calling on her in the same building which houses the Farm Bureau office today; and

WHEREAS, since their marriage on June 15, 1951, Mr. Barker has appreciated the companionship and support of his wife, Naomi; the blessings of their four children, who were raised on the family farm; and the love of their eight grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Barker was elected in 1963 to the position of President of the Sequatchie County Farm Bureau and continued as its President for twenty-five years; he began his service to the Tennessee Farm Bureau as a State Farm Bureau board member from the Third District, was elected Vice President in 1986, and served in that capacity until he was elected President of the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation in 1995; and

WHEREAS, Flavius Barker is an active and important part of the Dunlap community and Tennessee's primary business of agriculture, participating in numerous worthy organizations, including his meritorious service as Director of the Sequatchie County Farmers Co-op and Sequatchie County Soil Conservation District; as the representative from Tennessee to the National Council of Agricultural Extension Service; and as Director of the Chattanooga Production Credit Association, which later became known as the Chattanooga Ag Credit Association, for thirty years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Barker was responsible for guiding the Chattanooga Ag Credit Association through the perilous decade of the eighties during his ten years as Chairman of the Board; and

WHEREAS, he also contributed his time and numerous talents as one of six people in Sequatchie County who organized the Citizens Bank in Dunlap in 1973; and

WHEREAS, Flavius Barker was appointed in 1995 by Governor Don Sundquist to serve on the Governor's Council of Agriculture and Forestry; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Barker took a much deserved retirement on December 6, 2005; and

WHEREAS, Flavius Barker epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; his life of stalwart service to his fellow farmers and the agriculture industry of this great State stands as testament to the difference one person can make; and

WHEREAS, on the occasion of his retirement, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Flavius Allen Barker for his admirable service to the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we extend to Flavius Allen Barker our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.